

OFFICES OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

News Release

For Immediate Release: May 19, 2006

BERNARD CARVALHO,
director
Tel (808) 241-4418
Fax (808) 241-4499

Registration open for summer track and field programs

LĪHU'E – County officials announced that registration is now open for the USA Track & Field (USATF) Summer Program.

The goal of the program is to help participants improve their performance in track and field events.

Youngsters nine and older are eligible to sign up for the USATF program, which begins on Saturday, June 3 and runs every Saturday through July 8. Each session starts at 7 am and will be held on Vidinha Stadium's rubberized track.

"Now that we have a first-class facility, programs such as the USATF summer program can be offered here," said Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste. "Our youngsters can hone their skills at Vidinha Stadium and compete on a level playing field with their peers across the state."

A number of well-known athletes have agreed to coach and serve as mentors in the USATF Program including – Imai Karratti (high jump, long jump and hurdles), Bobby Menks (5,000 and 10,000 meters), Basil Scott (1,500 meters), Brian Ueno (shot put and discus), and Dave Walker (sprints, jumps, hurdles and decathlon).

To enroll in the USATF program, participants must become a member of USATF for a nominal fee of \$15. Registration can be done online at www.usatf.org.

A limited amount of scholarships are available to cover the cost of membership fees for qualified individuals. Call Walker at 652-0616 for information on scholarships and about the USATF program.

Culminating the USATF program will be a state competition scheduled July 15 on Oahu. Those who do well in this meet could go on to a national competition which will be held in Baltimore July 25 to 30.

In addition to the USATF program, youngsters who sign up for the Hershey Track and Field meet slated for June 24 at Vidinha Stadium will be eligible for a free training session.

For more information about the Hershey Track and Field meet, call the Recreation Agency at 241-4460 or stop by any neighborhood center.

Coaching clinics for track and field events are also being offered at Vidinha Stadium this summer. The clinics will be held every Wednesday, May 31 to July 12, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

For information about the coaching clinics, call Walker at 652-0616.

"Having the rubberized track has opened up a world of opportunities for Kaua'i residents," said Walker. "Our kids are better prepared because of it and now we can have track and field events at the stadium that weren't possible before."

Laying the groundwork for having top-notch events at Vidinha Stadium such as a state track meet, Walker has scheduled a certification class for officials at the stadium in February 2007. Gordon Scruton, USATF certification chair for Hawai'i, will be conducting the training.

"We're hoping that those who were track and field athletes in high school will take the training and volunteer to help our kids develop their skills," Walker said.

###